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A  
VERY  
SHORT  
GUIDE  
TO  
CHARLOTTE  
MASONRY

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My curiosity about 'Charlotte Masonry' ought to have satiated when I read "The Story of Charlotte Mason" by Essex Cholmondeley, of which there are many copies in the Library. It was not. If yours is not either, read on!

Go into the Library and open the last little cupboard on your right, as you face the French section. Some heavy tomes may fall out; these are the College photographs in two volumes, 1893 to 1937 and 1938 to 1965. In the first volume do look at the 'action shots' of the 1897 students and the pictures of Scale How, inside and out, taken about the same time. There are also some albums of photographs taken at the Conferences of 1914, 1930 and 1932. Miss Mason never allowed herself to be photographed, so treat with respect the result of a plot to 'snap' her which shows her protestations so well. Also treat with care the photographic plate of Ruskin.

You will also find an album of Girl Guide photographs, the Company Register 1948-, the Blue Tit Patrol Log 1929, and the Bantam Patrol Log 1929-. It is a pity that there seem to be no records of the earlier Peewit Patrol circa 1911 who were female Scouts.

I know I am biased but the most interesting thing in this cupboard is the collection of Miss Agnes C. Drury's Nature Note Books. There are thirteen of them, covering the years 1901 to 1957. She was a student in 1901 to 2 and in 1907 became a lecturer at the House of Education. You will also find a book of exquisite paintings of fungi and five of 'Uncle's' ordinary note-books.

In connection with 'nature' you can also see some of the College Bird and Flower Lists. So far Flower lists have been recovered for 1900 to 1903, which were shown at

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Completed 11th July 1965 at the  
Charlotte Mason College Ambleside

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the Greater Cork International Exhibition in 1903, for 1939 (367 species), 1958 (203 species), 1959 (188 species) 1960 (168 species); Bird Lists so far, 1959 (56 species), 1960 (72 species). Don't take that as typical of the relative decrease of flora and fauna; it rather records the wane of interest. The Bird and Flower Lists are now kept in a card index in the Lab.

A College Diary has been kept since the beginning, but where the 1892 to 1948 ones are heaven only knows! The 1948 to 1953 one is in this cupboard and the current one is in the hands of the present diarist.

You probably won't know Miss K.C. Hugman, but those who do will be amused to see two of her note-books for Natural History when she was a student in 1923. The 1923 Cricket Score Book is also there. Interesting too, are two Education Note-books, recording a 'Junior Walk', and a Nature Note Book, all vintage 1959. An example of student book-binding and lettering is "Presentations to the Charlotte Mason College Library 1940-" and of student wit, the following in a copy of The New Testament in Greek, used by students 1918 to 1935,

I don't like Greek although I know I should,  
I don't like French, that's why I aren't too good,  
I don't like J.M. when she gives my bath away,  
I don't like birdwalks when it's hockey day,  
I don't like Ed when I have to read aloud,  
Now don't you think my 'don't likes' are a top-hole  
crowd.

F.M.W. (1924)

Other books in the cupboard include one of Charlotte Mason's Bibles, three copies of the P.U.S. Diamond

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Jubilee Magazine, Galley proofs of a pamphlet, "P.N.E.U. Teaching as a Career for Girls" 1941, by Miss J. Van Straubenzee, the then Principal of C.M.C., C.M.C. Schemes of Work for 1955 and two bound volumes of the "Parent's Review", 1919 to 1921 and 1921 to 1923, which belonged to W.F. Rawnsley, and include some of his manuscript notes.

The bound volumes of the "Parent's Review" for the years 1950 to 1961 are on the shelf above the same little cupboard with the bound volumes of "L'Umile Pianta", the C.M.C. Association magazine, for the years 1896 to 1963.

Still in the Library, look in the glass-fronted book-case by the Biology section. There, amongst other interesting children's books you will find the almost proverbial Arabella Buckley natural history books, "The Fairyland of Science", "Winners in Life's Race" and the eight books of the "Eyes and No Eyes Series", all of which were on the P.U.S. Programmes for so long.

On the top shelf of the Educational Psychology section there is a complete "Home Education Series", "Towards a Philosophy of Education" (if you have read Miss Cholmondeley's book you will know who wrote them!), the "In Memoriam C.M.Mason" volume, the P.U.S Diamond Jubilee Magazine, "Some Impressions of the Ambleside Method", "Concerning Children as Persons", "The Basis of National Strength", and sundry P.N.E.U. publications in a folder. We leave the Library, taking, I hope, "Netta" by Monk Gibbon, the biography of Mrs Henrietta Franklin, who had so much to do with the whole P.N.E.U. movement.

Finally, if in doubt in the Library ask Miss Williamson, she's sure to know.

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To give your eyes a bit of a rest, let's look at pictures rather than print. I suppose the first picture which you see or is pointed out to you is the portrait in oil of Miss Mason painted in 1901 by Fred Yates. You can read all about him, when and why in "The Story of Charlotte Mason", page 84 and in "Netta", page 55. He was English, by the way, not Honoluluese! Yes, that's why Millet House is called Millet!

First Years, ask permission to go up the red stairs and look at the pictures. The first one is one hours beginnings of a pastel portrait of Miss Essex Cholmondeley, whose name we know well now, when she was a student in 1918. It is by Fred Yates too, but unfinished and therefore unsigned. The second picture up the stairs is a charcoal portrait of Miss E.C. Allen, a student in 189 , done by Mr Yates in 1902, when she was teaching the first P.N.E.U. Class begun in London by Mrs Franklin which included the Yates' daughter, Mary. Carry on up the stairs and by the English Room you will see another Yates, this time a pastel landscape given to Miss Drury. Quickly disappear down the back stairs and you come to another crop of pictures. From left to right, a photograph of a portrait in oil of Dr. Helen Webb (see the references in "Netta" and "The Story"), a pastel portrait of Miss F.C.A. Williams, "V.P."— Vice Principal in Miss Mason's time, a photograph of a charcoal portrait of Mrs Franklin (these three by F.Y.), a photograph of Miss Kitching, Miss Mason's secretary, a photograph of Miss Mary Hardcastle, a late Principal.

If you ever penetrate into the Staff Room you will see yet another Yates—another pastel, of Harthead Farm, dated

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1915. There are four Yates pictures without fixed abode at the moment but look out for them. They are a photograph of a charcoal portrait of Miss Mason (the original is in the P.N.E.U. Office in London), an oil landscape, an oil sketch of the students performing Tennyson's "The Princess" on the Wordsworth Steps when it had two trees, and an oil of Birch Trees. Mr Yates is dead but his daughter Mary still lives in Rydal.

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Back to books now! These ones are in the Junior Common Room bookcase. First books written by Miss Mason. Her publisher was Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. I'll just give you a list:

- Home Education. A Course of Lectures to Ladies. 1896.  
Parents and Children. A Sequel to Home Education. 1897.  
An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education. 1925.  
"The Home Education Series"  
I. Home Education. 1905.  
II. Parents and Children. 1904.  
III. School Education. 1905.  
IV. Ourselves. 1905.  
V. Some Studies in the Formation of Character. 1906.  
The Saviour of the World  
I. Holy Infancy. 1908.  
II. His Dominion. 1908.  
III. The Kingdom of Heaven. 1909.  
IV. The Bread of Life. 1910.  
V. The Great Controversy. 1911.  
VI. The Training of His Disciples. 1914.  
The Ambleside Series, Geography Books.  
I. Elementary Geography. 1926.  
II. The British Empire and the Great Divisions of the Globe.  
1907.  
III. The Counties of England. 1907.  
IV. The Countries of Europe. 1911.  
V. Asia, Africa, America and Australasia. 1910.  
First Grammar Lessons. 1928. (published posthumously)

Now a book about Miss Mason, the gathered tributes after her death-

In Memoriam. Charlotte M. Mason. 1923.

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The following are books which belonged to her, also in the Junior Common Room bookcase. In the brackets are any inscriptions, dates she wrote and sources.

Madame de Staël (1862)

The Complete Works of Shakespeare (1862)

Matthew Arnold's Poetical Works (given by Doris, Geoffrey and their Mother 1893)

Introductory Lectures on Modern History by Thomas Arnold (presented in 1912 by his daughter Frances Arnold)

The Golden Book of Coleridge 1895 (1897)

Oliver Cromwell a Play by John Drinkwater (from Netta 1921)

The World Beautiful by Lilian Whiting 1897 (with love from H.W. 1896)

Selections from the Poems of A.H. Clough 1909 (from Silva Bell by whom it was bound)

Early Days at Uppingham under Edward Thring by An Old Boy (Miss Mason from the Author 1918)

The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity by Hooker 3 Vols 1793

Dante's Pilgrim's Progress with Notes on the Way by E.R.G. (To Miss Mason in memory of a happy Eastertide from

Dorothea Beale. With all good wishes for the work, De caldo amore, e de vive speranga.)

Dante. Illustrations and Notes. Privately Printed 1890.

Dante and His Time by Karl Federn 1902

"We Twa" by Lord and Lady Aberdeen 2 Vols 1925 (inscribed by them 1928)

The Fields of France by Mme Mary Duclaux 1904

Tennyson. A Memoir by Hallam Lord Tennyson 1905

The Collected Poems of T.E. Brown 1900 (from S.A. 1901)

My Novel Vol. 2 (from Lady Betty Balfour)

German Days by a Polish Girl (from Clara Boyle 1919)

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Queen Louise of Prussia by Mary Maxwell Moffat (1906)  
St. Catherine of Siena and her Times (1906)

Pastor Agnorum by J.S. Skrine 1902

Ruskin and the Religion of Beauty trans. by Countess of Galloway

Knowledge, Duty and Faith by T.D. Acland 1896

Outline of Field-Geology by Archibald Geikie 1892

Lessons in Elementary Physiology 1873

The Principles of Physiology by Andrew Coombe 1860

Now a list of books written by people connected with College:

Garrick and His Circle by Mrs Clement Parsons

The Incomparable Siddons by Mrs Clement Parsons

From Morality to Religion by W.G. de Burgh 1938

Life and Its Beginnings by Helen Webb M.D.

School and Home Life by T.G. Rooper (used for M.E.C.)

A Latin Book for Beginners by M.C. Gardner in 2 Parts 1927 and 1928 (She was Latin Lecturer then)

The Urgent Voice and Other Poems by Barbara Lea (a P.U.S. Home Schoolroom pupil)

And finally look at Mrs Curwen's famous or infamous "Child Pianist" books and "Anthologie des Poetes Francais" and its inscription; 'Ces livres n'ont pas ete choisis par Melle Mottu oh! non par Miss Mason!!!'; people in Millet might like to read "J.F. Millet. Life and Letters" by Julia Cartwright 1910.

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The place reserved until last is for true scholars of 'Charlotte Masonry' only. Get in a position so that the General Office is on your left, walk seven steps forward, right turn! open the cupboard you are facing by inserting your little finger in the lock, et voila!!, sixty volumes, volumes and volumes, from the beginning until 1949, of the "Parent's Review"!!

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Satiated ???

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This "Guide" owes its existence to the  
generous cooperation of the Principal  
of the Charlotte Mason College - Miss  
M. Bonlton - whom I sincerely thank.

Pantine Holmes

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More Masonry come to light! Mary Yates was Peewit Number 1. of the Peewit Patrol and her badge is now in the library cupboard. The Patrol (begin 1910) was one of several "female scout" organisations which prompted the Girl Guide Movement.

There are more details in "L'Unità Pianta" for the years 1910 to 1917. The tassels are the equivalent of modern Guide test badges.



Peewit  
Patrol  
Badge